

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE OMITTED PARA 5)

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 2830 ACTION SECSTATE MAY 22ND

QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 2830

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: PERMREP LUNCH DISCUSSION OF NATO DECLARATION

SUMMARY: DISCUSSION OF NATO DECLARATION AT PERMREPS LUNCHEON, TUESDAY, MAY 21, STARTED WITH QUESTIONS OF RELATIONSHIP OF UK TEXT AND FEBRUARY 26 THOUGHT GROUP TEXT AND HOW COUNCIL OUGHT TO PROCEED. FRENCH AMBASSADOR OBJECTED TO LOSS OF SOME PASSAGES. MCAULIFFE DREW ON STATE 104606 IN URGING BRITISH TEXT AS BASIS OF NAC DISCUSSIONS. QUESTIONS OF LEVEL OF SIGNING, PLACE AND TIMING WERE RAISED, AS WELL AS THE RELATION OF THIS EXERCISE TO TIMING AND LEVEL OF CSCE PHASE III. END SUMMARY.

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1. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) OPENED THE DISCUSSION OF THE UK DRAFT OF AN ATLANTIC DECLARATION WITH JOCLAR REFERENCES TO ITS PARENTAGE. THIS BRITISH TEXT BEARS MORE THAN A PASSING RESEMBLANCE TO ITS FRENCH MOTHER,

BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS ILLEGITIMATE CHILD MIGHT COMMIT MATRICIDE OR PATRICIDE.

2. DE STAERCKE CONTINUED, MORE SERIOUSLY, THAT THE COUNCIL MUST NOW CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED. RECALLING THE DRAFT OF FEBRUARY 26, WHICH REPRESENTED A LARGE MEASURE OF FRENCH AND AMERICAN AGREEMENT, HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE UK DRAFT TOOK INTO FULL ACCOUNT ALL OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE. HE PROPOSED THAT THE NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF PREPARE A COMPARISON OF THE UK TEXT AND THE FEBRUARY 26 THOUGHT GROUP TEXT.

AMBASSADOR FISCHBACH (LUXEMBOURG)--AS IF BY PREARRANGEMENT--IMMEDIATELY AGREED, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE MOTHER AND HER BASTARD CLOSE TOGETHER AGAIN.

3. AMBASSADOR PECK (UK) SAID THAT THE UK HAD NOT HAD AT ITS DISPOSAL A COPY OF THE FEBRUARY 26 TEXT (IT WAS DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO MEMBERS OF THE THOUGHT GROUP), BUT HE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE ALLIANCE GET TO WORK AND PRODUCE A PROPER DECLARATION BY CONSENSUS. HE HOPED THAT THE BRITISH EFFORT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THAT EFFORT.

4. AMBASSADOR DE ROSE (FRANCE) COMPLIMENTED THE WORK OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE SAYING THAT IT REPRESENTED TYPICAL BRITISH DIPLOMATIC SKILL. HE WAS CRITICAL, HOWEVER, BECAUSE SEVERAL THINGS THAT HAD BEEN ADDED TO THE TEXT WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE AND WHICH HAD SURVIVED IN MODIFIED FORM UNTIL FEBRUARY 26, HAD BEEN OMITTED FROM THE UK DRAFT, PERHAPS BY OVERSIGHT OR PERHAPS IN THE DESIRE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS RAPIDLY. THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SOME OF THE DELETED PASSAGES. HE REFERRED TO SEVERAL PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS
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WHICH WERE PERSONAL AND INFORMAL WITH AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH THEY HAD MADE CHANGES TO WHICH HE BELIEVED BOTH WASHINGTON AND PARIS WOULD CONTINUE TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE, IF NOT IN THE EXACT SHADINGS OF LANGUAGE. HE AGAIN APPLAUDED THE UK DRAFT, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT THAT 80 PERCENT OF THE ORIGINAL FRENCH TEXT HAD SURVIVED IN THE BRITISH BASTARD, AND HE APPROVED DE STAERCKE'S SUGGESTION THAT A THREE-COLUMN TEXT BE PREPARED.

5. MCAULIFFE THEN SAID THAT THE US WELCOMES THE UK DRAFT AND WILL STATE IN THE NAC ON FRIDAY, MAY 24, THAT WE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SECURING A DECLARATION, NOT A COMMUNIQUE, NOR A REINFORCED COMMUNIQUE. THE

US IS PREPARED TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO ACHIEVE A TEXT THAT IS SUBSTANTIVELY SATISFACTORY. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WARMLY WELCOME THIS BRITISH INITIATIVE FOR A DECLARATION AND FIND THE BRITISH TEXT A USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A WORKING DOCUMENT TO ADVANCE ALLIANCE DISCUSSION. HE POINTED OUT THAT PARAGRAPH 8, DEALING WITH CONSULTATIONS, WHICH IS OF PARAMOUNT INTEREST TO WASHINGTON, DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS WE HAD HOPED, BUT THE US RECOGNIZES THAT THE UK TEXT REPRESENTS A SINCERE EFFORT AT ACHIEVING CONSENSUS, AND IN THAT SPIRIT WE CAN GO ALONG.

6. MCAULIFFE CONTINUED THAT AT MAY 24 NAC THE US WILL PRESENT FOUR TEXTUAL CHANGES. THE FIRST, WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL PRESENT NO DIFFICULTIES FOR THE ALLIES, HAS TO DO WITH A LEGAL PROBLEM PECULIAR TO THE UNITED STATES, CONCERNING THE USE OF THE WORD "COMMITMENT" IN THE UK TEXT. THE SECOND AND THIRD AMENDMENTS ARE EDITORIAL IN NATURE, SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE LINGUISTIC STYLE. THE FOURTH ADDS A SHORT PARAGRAPH HAVING TO DO WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS. MCAULIFFE SAID THAT THE US WILL WELCOME PROPOSALS FROM THE OTHER ALLIES FOR IMPROVING THE US SUBMISSIONS AND ADDED THAT THE US WOULD NOT WISH OUR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DELAY IN ANY WAY THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ALLIED CONSENSUS AT AN EARLY DATE ON THE TEXT OF A NATO DECLARATION.

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7. MCAULIFFE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THE CONCILIATORY EFFECT OF THE BRITISH EFFORT MIGHT BE LOST AND OLD DISPUTES AND DELAYS MIGHT RECUR IF THE COUNCIL WERE TO DECIDE TO WORK FROM EARLIER DRAFTS. IT IS THE STRONG US VIEW THAT THE UK TEXT OFFERS THE BEST BASIS FOR SUCCESSFUL AND RAPID RESOLUTION OF THE DRAFTING EXERCISE.

8. DE ROSE RESPONDED THAT HE HAD GREAT DIFFICULTIES PERSONALLY OMITTING PARAGRAPHS WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED TO AND HAD SURVIVED IN THE FEBRUARY 26 DRAFT. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, HE SAID HE HAD EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD STILL INSIST ON INCLUSION OF THE PASSAGE WHICH DEALT WITH "LA FINALITE DE TOUTE POLITIQUE DE FENSE" (THAT IS, THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE FEBRUARY 26 DRAFT: ("THE ULTIMATE AIM OF ANY DEFENSE POLICY") AND ALSO THE PASSAGE WHICH DEALS WITH THE EC AND THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH ONE CAN EXPECT IT TO MAKE TO NATO DEFENSES "IN DUE COURSE." HE ASKED WHETHER THE US WAS PREPARED TO ABANDON PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED OR WHETHER IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ELEMENTS OF THE FRENCH DRAFT, TO WHICH HE ATTACHED

IMPORTANCE, TO STAND AS PART OF NATO'S BASIC DOCUMENT
OR TO ADD THEM TO THE BRITISH TEXT.

9. MCAULIFFE REPLIED THAT THE US DID NOT EXPECT THE
UKK DRAFT TO EMERGE UNCHANGED. WHAT THE US SOUGHT WAS
EARLY CONSENSUS ON A NATO DECLARATION AND THE US
FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT THE UK DRAFT PRESENTED THE BEST

VEHICLE TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE.

10. DE STAERCKE INTERVENED TO SAY THAT THE UK HAD
OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE COLLECTIVE INTERESTS OF
THE FIFTEEN AND WAS WORKING IN THE REALM OF THE
POSSIBLE. LARGE ELEMENTS OF THE INITIAL FRENCH DRAFT
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HAD SURVIVED, BUT ONE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE
FACT THAT THE UK HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE THOUGHT
GROUP AND UNDOUBTEDLY WAS UNAWARE OF THE CONTENT OF
THE FEBRUARY 26 TEXT. THE US HAS ALREADY INDICATED
THAT IT HAS CHANGES TO PROPOSE; THE FRENCH HAVE
LANGUAGE WHICH THEY MIGHT WISH TO CHANGE OR RESTORE
PARAGRAPH 4 OF PECK'S LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL ALLOWS
AMPLE ROOM FOR DISCUSSION, THEREFORE, NOTHING SHOULD BE EX-
CLUDED FROM DISCUSSION. ALL TEXTS SHOULD BE MADE
AVAILABLE TO ALL FIFTEEN, AND THE WORK SHOULD GO
FORWARD AT FIFTEEN IN THE NAC OR POSSIBLY IN THE SPC.

11. MENZIES (CANADA) INQUIRED ABOUT WASHINGTON'S
POSITION ON THE LEVEL OF SIGNING. HE ASKED WHETHER
THERE WAS NOW NO PROSPECT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD
VISIT BRUSSELS EN ROUTE TO OR FROM MOSCOW. MCAULIFFE
REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHO WOULD
SIGN THE DOCUMENT, WHEN IT WOULD BE SIGNED, OR WHERE
IT WOULD BE SIGNED. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT
WASHINGTON WOULD ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS WHEN CON-
SENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED ON A DECLARATION THAT WAS
SUBSTANTIVELY SATISFACTORY. MENZIES REMARKED THAT
THIS MADE PLANNING FOR THE OTTAWA NAC VERY DIFFICULT
FOR THE AUTHORITIES IN CANADA. CHORAFAS (GREECE)
EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE COUNCIL COULD AGREE ON A
DECLARATION IN TIME FOR THE OTTAWA MINISTERIAL, AND
ADDED THAT IF NATO TRIES AGAIN AND FAILS TO AGREE ON
A TEXT OF A DECLARATION, THE EFFECT ON ALLIANCE
COHESION WILL BE CALAMITOUS. MENZIES REMARKED THAT
IN HIS VIEW THE ASSUMPTION SEEMED IMPLICIT IN THE UK
PROPOSAL THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD SIGN A
DECLARATION DURING THE OTTAWA MEETING. ONCE A DECLARA-
TION IS AGREED TO, IT COULD NOT BE KEPT SECRET. BUSCH
(NORWAY) AGREED WITH MENZIES. OSLO FAVORS THE SIGNING
OF A DECLARATION AT OTTAWA BY FOREIGN MINISTERS.
KRAPF (FRG) SAID THE COUNCIL WAS NOW IN A GOOD

PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION AND SHOULD MOVE RAPIDLY TO
COMPLETE A DOCUMENT IN TIME FOR OTTAWA, AND NOT BE
OVERLY CONCERNED WITH DETAILS.

12. DE ROSE REFERRED TO HIS PRIDE WITH RESPECT TO
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THE FRENCH TEXT AND SAID IT WAS NOT AN IMMODEST PRIDE.
IT WAS A GOOD TEXT WHICH HAD BEEN FULLY ACCEPTABLE
TO BOTH PARIS AND WASHINGTON. HE ADDED LTHAT THE
IDEA OF A DECLARATION AND THE LEVEL OF SIGNING ARE
RELATED IN A PLLITICAL SENSE TO CSCE, THE RESULTS
THAT MIGHT BE OBTAINED FROM STAGE II, AND THE TIMING
AND LEVEL AT WHICH STAGE III WILL BE HELD. AGAIN
POINTING OUT THAT HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, HE
SAID HE HAD NO TROUBLE PERSONALLY WITH A NATO
DECLARATION PROVIDED THAT IT WAS INTRINSICALLY GOOD
AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE ALLIES. BY WAY OF RESPONSE TO
CHORAFAS, DE ROSE SAID THAT IF THE NAC HAD DIFFICULTY
AGREEING TO A DECLARATION IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE
TO INCLUDE PORTIONS OF AN AGREED TEXT IN A
COMMUNIQUE EMERGING FROM THE OTTAWA MINISTERIAL.
SVART (DENMARK) AGREED WITH BUSCH THAT THERE SHOULD BE
A DECLARATION SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS AT OTTAWA.

13. DE STAERCKE CONCLUDED THE LUNCHEON DISCUSSION
BY SUGGESTING THAT ALL OF 1974 WAS AVAILABLE FOR
CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND THAT IF THE
ALLIES BECAME INVOLVED IN TIME-CONSUMING DISCUSSIONS
ON A DECLARATION, THEY MIGHT STILL HOLD A SIGNING
CEREMONY IN THE GRAND PLACE IN BRUSSELS IN DECEMBER.MCAULIFFE
UNQUOTE RUSH

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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